

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BLANTY 00463 051349Z

72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 IGA-02 AID-20 EB-11 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /078 W

----- 099898

R 051250Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6954

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BLANTYRE 463

MBABANE FOR OSARAC

NAIROBI FOR REDSO

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ZA, MI

SUBJ: LILONGWE-MCHINJI ROAD

REF: LUSAKA 616

1. APPRECIATE INFO REFTL. MALAWI HAS BEEN AFFLICTED THIS YEAR BY RECORD RAINS CREATING DIFFICULTIES SIMILAR TO THOSE DESCRIBED REFTL ON MANY OF MALAWI'S MAIN ROADS. ACTING DIRECTOR ROADS, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS JUST INFORMED EMBASSY THAT PART OF AID LAKESHORE ROAD (MONKEY BAY SPUR) IS COMPLETELY UNDER WATER AS RESULT OF FLOODING INTERSECTING RIVERS. IN OPINION OF GOM SECRETARY FOR WORKS (RICHARDS) THERE IS SIMPLY NO WAY WITHIN CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY AFRICAN BUDGETS THAT GOVERNMENTS CAN DESIGN ROADS FOR "ONE YEAR IN FIFTEEN" WHEN RECORD RAINS OCCUR. SAME APPLIES TO MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS UNDER CONDITIONS OF SEVERE RAINFALL. FORTUNATELY PERIOD OF RAINS IS CLOSE TO END IN MALAWI AND NEXT MONTHS WILL SEE INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO REPAIR SEASONAL DAMAGE.

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PAGE 02 BLANTY 00463 051349Z

2. FINAL DESIGN OF LILONGWE-MCHINJI ROAD FOR AID FINANCING

IS WELL UNDER WAY WITH AUTHORIZATION OF CONSTRUCTION LOAN
EXPECTED IN JUNE THIS YEAR. WE DEFER TO AID ADDRESSEES ON
POSSIBILITY OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO REMEDY CURRENT
L-M SITUATION. HOWEVER GOM MINWORKS AND WE BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY
THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE COULD MATERIALIZE BEFORE END OF RAINS
AND SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE RECTIFY PROBLEM IN NORMAL MANNER.
FARBER

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, FLOODS, HIGHWAYS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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